An Aesthetics of Hip Hop Seminar (#60370)  
Professor Ayanah Moor  
Spring 2014 / Wednesday 6:30-9:20pm  
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Calendar—SUBJECT TO CHANGE

1/15 Week 1:  
Intro to the course. Seminar aims, goals and challenges. What is hip hop culture?

Homework:  
• “Swagger” by Dawoud Bey, Black Cool: One Thousand Streams of Blackness, edited by Rebecca Walker, pgs. 147-154.

1/22 Week 2:  
The social, economic and cultural conditions that birthed hip hop culture. Artists include: David Hammons, Jamel Shabazz, Martha Cooper, Chris Offill, Dawoud Bey

Homework:  

• “Black Youth and the Ironies of Capitalism,” Representing: Hip Hop Culture and the Production of Black Cinema, by S. Craig Watkins, pgs. 50-76.

1/29 Week 3:  
The currency of symbolic work versus symbolic capital within hip hop’s cultural production. Artists include: Luis Guispert, Damien Hirsch, Jamel Shabazz, Dzine, Glenn Kaino, Kori Newkirk.
Screen: Style Wars (1983)

Homework:  
• “Hip Hop Reflects Black Dysfunctional Ghetto Culture,” The Hip Hop Wars, by Tricia Rose, pgs. 61-74.

• Essay #1. See assignment & deadline on course blog.

2/5 Week 4:  
Examining graffiti culture and the politics of public space. Artists include: Cornbread, TAKI 183, Basquiat, Lady Pink, Twist, Swoon, Shepard Fairey, Banksy, Jay Shells, Robin Rhode, Adam Frelin.
Screen: Bomb It (2007)

Homework:  
• “The Rebirth of DJ Spooky” by Ellen Pearlman, The Brooklyn Rail, September 1, 2004
2/12 Week 5:
“Eric B is on the cut”: from Technics and data visualization to Rebirth of a Nation. Artists include: Art Jones, Christian Marclay, Sean Duffy, Tahir Hemphill, DJ Spooky
Screen: various works

Homework:
• “Not the Average Girl from the Videos: B-Girls Defining Their Space in Hip Hop Culture by Alesha Dominek Washington, Homegirls Make Some Noise, pgs. 80-91
• Essay #2. See assignment & deadline on course blog.

2/19 Week 6:
From bboys & bgirls to Goodie Mob’s, “They don’t dance no mo!” A look at works in dialogue with hip hop culture’s dance element. Artists include: Juan Capistran, Sanford Biggers, Sharaya J, Adrian Piper, Keith Haring & Bill T. Jones, Baby Love, Honey Rockwell, Asia One

2/26 Week 7:
M.C. means master of ceremonies, but so many are just frontin’. We’ll be speaking about profiling and identity politics. Artists include: Hennessy Youngman, Nikki S. Lee, Fahamu Pecou, Basquait, Jay Z
Screen: various works

Homework:
• “Eating the Other: Desire and Resistance,” Black Looks, by bell hooks, pgs. 21-39.

3/5 Week 8:
Examining the relationship between rap music and the minstrel show. Artists include: Michael Ray Charles, Iona Rozeal Brown, Little Brother, Ke$$ha, Kreyshawn, Nikki S. Lee
Review: bell hooks, Glenn Ligon & Kelley Walker
Screen: Bamboozled (2000)

Homework:
• Essay #3. See assignment & deadline on course blog.

3/12 Week 9:
Spring break
3/19 Week 10:
Scholar Nicole Fleetwood’s terminology “excess flesh” as a framework for analysis. 
Our discussion: Renee Cox, Lil Kim, Hype Williams, Ayanah Moor, Sir Mix Alot 
Screen: Belly (1998)

Homework:
• “‘I used to be scared of the dick’: Queer women of color and hip hop masculinity” by Andreana Clay, Homegirls Make Some Noise, pgs. 148-166

3/26 Week 11:
Queering the mic, recognizing the complexity of gender identity in hip hop. 
Discussions include: Big Freedia, Angel Haze, Deep Dickollective, THEESatisfaction

Homework:
• Compose research paper abstract. See assignment & deadline on course blog

4/2 Week 12:
Presentation of research abstracts. Q&A, workshop session.

4/9 Week 13:
Freestyle: Student research showcase. Q&A, discussion.

4/16 Week 14:
Freestyle: Student research showcase. Q&A, discussion.

4/23 Week 15:
Freestyle: Student research showcase. Q&A, discussion.

4/30 Week 16:
Last class: itinerary to be determined

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